Boom in Tourism Industry

241. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a boom in tourism is expected all over the world in the second half of nineties;

(b) if so, what schemes/programmes are being planned to ensure that India takes the maximum advantage of this boom; and

(c) whether any special project has been envisaged to attract tourists to the spots which are associated with ancient India's culture and religion?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) According to forecasts made by the World Tourism Organisation, the world wide international tourist arrival is expected to grow at an average rate of 4.4. percent during the second half of nineties. The projected growth rate for the South Asia region during the same period is 7 percent.

(b) The Government has initiated sev eral measures for the improvement of infrastructural facilities for tourism. It includes declaration of tourism as a prior ity sector for foreign investment, provi sion of incentives and facilities for attract ing private investment in tourism pro jects, assistance to State Governments for the development of tourism infrastruc ture, introduction of tourist trains and upgradation of indentified airports.

(c) A special scheme for the refurbish ment of monuments and landscaping of the area around them has been drawn up recently to develop facilities for cultural tourism. Infrastructural development in identified Buddhist centres in U.P., Bihar and Maharashtra are being carried out under the OECF Project.

Outlay for Power Sector in Bihar

242. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an outlay of Rs. 388.76 crores was approved for power sector in Bihar during 1993-94;

(b) if so, how the outlay was utilised in that State with details thereof and results achieved therefrom;

(c) what was the approved outlay for power sector in Bihar for 1994-95; and

(d) whether any market improvement in power generation has been noticed in that State after utilizing outlays of 1993-94 and 1994-95; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The actual expenditure for power sector during the year 1993-94 in Bihar was Rs. 85.66 crores.

(c) The approved outlay for power sector in Bihar for 1994-95 was Rs. 398.26 crores.

(d) The total power generation in Bihar during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 2988 million units (MUs) and 3286 MUs respectively. The total power generaation during the year 1992-93 was 2963 MUs.

Rate of Inflation

243. SHRI V. NARYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the. rate of inflation recently touched double digit figure; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to bring down inflation and control prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE {SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): <a) The annual inflation rate based on